

Increased Production Forecast for Corn and Soybean Crops

The growing season's weather pattern of above normal temperatures and scattered rainfall continued through August. Corn and soybean crop progress continues to be well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. As of September 2, soil moisture conditions were rated 61 percent very short to short, 10 points drier than a month ago. Eastern Wisconsin remains the driest part of the state.

Total corn for grain production is expected to reach 381 million bushels in Wisconsin, an 8 percent increase from 2004. State yield is currently forecast at 136 bushels per acre, an increase of 6 bushels from the August 1 forecast and the same yield as last year. The rise in production is the result of a 200,000 acre increase in harvested acres from 2004. On September 2, Wisconsin's corn crop was rated 52 percent good to excellent, an improved rating from the end of July. Continued heat throughout the growing season has rapidly advanced corn maturity. Corn is reaching the mature stage ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Corn harvested for silage started well ahead of average.

Nationally, corn production is expected to reach 10.6 billion bushels, a 10 percent decrease from 2004's record high year. If 2005's forecasted production is realized this will be the second

largest corn crop on record. Corn for grain yield is forecast at 143.2 bushels per acre, a 4 bushel increase from the August 1 forecast, but a 17.2 bushel drop from 2004. Forecast yields are down from the previous year in all Corn Belt States except Michigan and Wisconsin. U.S. corn for grain area harvested is expected to reach 74.3 million acres, up one percent from 73.6 million acres last year.

Wisconsin soybean production is forecast at 56.5 million bushels, a 4 percent increase from 2004. The state yield is projected to increase 1 bushel from 2004 and be unchanged from the August 1 forecast at 36.0 bushels per acre. Harvested acres are expected to reach 1.57 million, a 20,000 acre increase from last year. On September 2, Wisconsin's soybean crop was rated 50 percent good to excellent. Current soybean maturity is about one week ahead of the 5-year average.

Nationwide soybean production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, a 9 percent decline from 2004's record crop. Yield is projected at 39.6 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from the August 1 forecast but 2.9 bushels below 2004. Harvested acres are forecast at 72.2 million, down from last year's record high of 74.0 million acres.

CROP SUMMARY, 2003-04 and Forecasted September 1, 2005

Crop	Harvested acres (thousands)			Unit	Yield per acre			Production (thousands)			Pro- duction % change 2005/04
	2003	2004	2005		2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	
	WISCONSIN										
Corn for grain	2,850	2,600	2,800	Bu.	129.0	136.0	136.0	367,650	353,600	380,800	+8
Soybeans for beans	1,670	1,550	1,570	Bu.	28.0	35.0	36.0	46,760	54,250	56,520	+4
Hay (all)	2,100	2,050	2,100	Ton	2.09	2.38	2.04	4,380	4,880	4,290	-12
Alfalfa	1,600	1,600	1,550	Ton	2.30	2.60	2.20	3,680	4,160	3,410	-18
All other	500	450	550	Ton	1.40	1.60	1.60	700	720	880	+22
Oats	230	210	225	Bu.	67.0	65.0	62.0	15,410	13,650	13,950	+2
Winter wheat	175	225	175	Bu.	69.0	56.0	59.0	12,075	12,600	10,325	-18
Potatoes (fall)	80.0	70.0	70.0	Cwt.	410	435	4/	32,800	30,450	4/	-
Apples (commercial) 2/	6.0	6.0	3/	Lb.	11,300	9,500	3/	68,000	57,000	59,000	+4
Cranberries	17.4	17.4	3/	Bbl.	207.3	189.4	3/	3,607	3,295	3,670	+11
Tart cherries 2/	1.9	1.9	3/	Lb.	7,000	3,530	3/	13,300	6,700	6,400	-4
Maple syrup	—	—	—	Gal.	—	—	—	76	100	50	-50
	UNITED STATES										
Corn for grain	70,944	73,632	74,318	Bu.	142.2	160.4	143.2	10,089,222	11,807,217	10,638,661	-10
Soybeans for beans	72,476	73,958	72,184	Bu.	33.9	42.5	39.6	2,453,665	3,140,996	2,856,449	-9
Hay (all)	63,383	61,916	61,723	Ton	2.49	2.55	2.43	157,585	157,774	149,917	-5
Alfalfa	23,529	21,707	22,118	Ton	3.24	3.47	3.34	76,273	75,383	73,849	-2
All other	39,854	40,209	39,605	Ton	2.04	2.05	1.92	81,312	82,391	76,068	-8
Oats	2,220	1,792	1,976	Bu.	65.0	64.7	64.7	144,383	115,935	127,819	+10
Winter wheat	36,753	34,462	34,271	Bu.	46.7	43.5	44.4	1,716,721	1,499,434	1,520,848	+1
Spring wheat 1/	13,441	13,174	13,637	Bu.	39.5	43.2	40.6	531,402	568,918	553,375	-3
Barley	4,727	4,021	3,471	Bu.	58.9	69.4	68.2	278,283	279,253	236,729	-15
Potatoes (fall)	1,090.9	1,022.3	955.7	Cwt.	376	401	4/	410,588	410,253	4/	-
Apples (commercial) 2/	389.0	386.5	3/	Lb.	22,400	26,100	3/	8,713,100	10,419,900	9,837,100	-6
Cranberries	39.6	39.2	3/	Bbl.	156.4	162.3	3/	6,193	6,170	6,494	+5
Tart cherries 2/	37.0	37.0	3/	Lb.	6,120	5,760	4/	226,300	213,000	244,200	+15
Maple syrup	—	—	—	Gal.	—	—	—	1,260	1,507	1,242	-18

1/Spring wheat other than durum. 2/Bearing acreage. 3/Released January 2006. 4/Released November 10, 2005. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.